

**Meeting Minutes  
City of Medina Park Board  
February 10, 2004**

Present: Chair Connie Gerlitz, Vice-Chair Joseph Brazen, Danya Hill and Heija Nunn

Staff Present: Director of Public Works (DPW) Shel Jahn and Recording Secretary Carol Wedlund

Chairperson Gerlitz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Approval of December 15, 2003 Minutes**

The Park Board minutes of December 15, 2003 were approved by common consent.

**Announcements / Discussion**

Resignation of Danya Hill – Chair Gerlitz read Danya Hill's resignation effective February 11, 2004, noting the Park Board now had two vacancies. She suggested a sixth Park Board member serve as an alternate. Chair Gerlitz also stated there were citizens in the audience who had volunteered to serve on the Park Board.

PB member Brazen announced due to an earlier commitment, he must leave the PB meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Road Sign at Lake Lane – DPW Jahn referred to a picture of the Lake Lane sign in PB packets, noting the vegetation that used to block the new road sign at Lake Lane had been replaced so that the sign was now visible.

**Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair** - DPW Jahn stated PB membership was for a four-year term. Due to the two vacancies, anyone selected at this time would serve in a temporary capacity until June 30th, at which time their official term of office would begin. PB member Nunn nominated PB member Brazen to be the next Board Chair during the term ending December 31, 2004. The motion was seconded by PB member Hill, and the vote was unanimous. PB member Nunn nominated Chair Gerlitz as Vice-Chair for 2004. Chair Gerlitz declined and nominated PB member Nunn as Vice-Chair. PB member Hill seconded Chair Gerlitz's nomination for PB member Nunn as Vice-Chair, and the vote was unanimous.

PB member Brazen took over as Chair.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Update on Dock / Indian Trail Signage** – DPW Jahn referred to the picture of the proposed bollards, noting they needed work on constructing a bottom footing before being installed. He gave an update regarding the fabrication of the Lake Dock and the Community Dock at Viewpoint Park signs, as well as the new ones for the Indian Trail.

**Parks Donation and Memorial Policy** – DPW stated former PB member Phelps had not been able to complete the Parks Donation and Memorial Policy before assuming the Council position, so he would formulate a draft of the Medina Parks Donation and Memorial policy. He stated that he would review examples of other donation policies when preparing the draft for presentation to the PB and then to the City Council.

**Medina Beach Park Small Retaining Wall Project** – DPW Jahn indicated most of the required materials had been purchased by the PWC in preparation for the small Medina Beach Park retaining wall project. He invited PB members to view the rock samples at the city shop. DPW Jahn commented that drainage gravel would be placed on the backside of the retaining wall, and mortar would be utilized for the rock on the front of the bulkhead. A drainage trap would be installed behind the retaining wall to collect ground water from in back of the wall. Construction was tentatively scheduled to commence in the March / April timeframe with completion by the start of the beach season.

**Discussion of Additional Playground Equipment for Medina Park** – DPW Jahn gave an update of Medina Elementary's demolition and reconstruction process and presented an option regarding additional playground equipment. He had proposed cost sharing with Bellevue School District to upgrade the playground area and equipment so it would become an enhanced joint school and community playground. School District personnel had been fairly receptive, depending upon what Medina suggested. He indicated if the city were to do this, no funding would be required from the Council until 2005. DPW Jahn inquired whether the PB wanted him to pursue feasibility with the School District. He noted this expanded capability and better quality playground equipment would likely be an uphill struggle unless contributions were solicited. Further, this was not an immediate decision, as any voting or determination should wait until at least next month, when the new members would join the PB. DPW Jahn continued by noting that there had been some objections to this proposal from adjacent residents regarding after-school activities and noise that would be associated with an upgraded playground area, which would need to be addressed as the process continued.

**Ron Santi, 7842 NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street**, announced he was one of the neighbors who had concerns about the collateral impacts of changing the Medina playground equipment uses. He commented that Little League games lasted ten hours a day on Saturdays during the season. Further, those kinds of amenities invited usage such as pick-up games from surrounding communities. There was also the liability potential from injuries incurred on the playfield. The result would be the entire feel of the neighborhood would be changed. He asked that neighbors be kept in mind, and suggested not adding too much to the school neighborhood. DPW Jahn promised to check further with the school district to determine if this was a feasible option. He also promised to check on liability, and report back to the PB.

**Indian Trail Landscaping Plan** – DPW Jahn provided an update on the Indian Trail Landscaping Plan. DPW Jahn announced that the sod would first be cut, with a gravel overlay and wood chips on top to make the Indian Trail pedestrian pathway. The PWC had also been acquiring trees for an improved trail appearance. The priority was what would be in the best interests of the city, but the wishes of the residents would also be solicited.

**Margaret Maxwell, 8040 NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street**, inquired who would determine what plants should be planted. DPW Jahn replied the decision would be made by the PWC and OTAK consultants, along with residents living adjacent the trail. Due to the Indian Trail Drainage Improvement Project construction in 2003, the trail pathway had been changed. He noted that the concept was to try and reestablish what had primarily been along the trail before several of the trees and shrub had to be removed last summer, but also with improvements.

**New Fence for the Community Dock at Viewpoint Park** – DPW Jahn provided the PB with an update on this project, noting the new fence had been installed. The landscaping that must be installed between the two fences was the next PW project. Further, resident Charles Simonyi was having two light standards installed to light up the parking lot and add security. A sign would also be erected indicating the park would be closed from dusk to dawn. This sign would also provide the MPD support for enforcement.

**Discussion of Renaming Fairweather Nature Preserve** – DPW Jahn commented that the Council had approved the PB's recommended renaming of Fairweather Nature Preserve to Fairweather Park and Nature Preserve.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Reassignment of Parks and Nature Preserve Oversight Responsibilities** – Chair Brazen suggested tabling the reassignment of the Parks and Nature Preserve oversight responsibilities until the new members were on board, which met with unanimous approval.

**Discussion of Applications for Park Board membership** – DPW Jahn stated the Board should determine which applicants would be recommended to the Council for appointment to the PB. He noted the applications received to date were included in the PB packet. Further, three prospective PB members were present for the meeting.

**Tim O'Brien, 7657 NE 14<sup>th</sup> Street**, announced he had been a Medina resident for three years and his daughter attended Medina Elementary. He had 25 years of management experience, had been involved in real estate for seven years, and wanted to be involved in the community. The playground issue was of interest to him. He also liked Medina Park.

**Susannah Stuart, 1250 – 80<sup>th</sup> Place NE**, relayed she lived in Medina Park Place, and had a background in marketing and public relations. She had the time and energy to become involved in the community, and liked Medina Park and the Beach Park. She was also encouraged by the progress made in Medina's parks during the past two years.

**Lisa Fleischman, 7641 NE 12<sup>th</sup> Street**, as the mother of four children who were daily Medina park users, was excited about becoming involved in community issues in Medina. She was heavily involved with her children at school and was the annual campaign chair at University Child Development School, trying to raise \$200,000. Her favorite park was Medina Park. Further, she would like to see more irrigation in Medina's parks, and also desired more flexibility and options for the play structure in Medina Park.

DPW Jahn noted that the Mayor, with Council consultation, selected new PB members. By consensus, the PB members agreed to recommend a sixth PB member to the Council rather than have that person as an alternate. The extra position would also help prevent meeting cancellation due to lack of a quorum. DPW Jahn promised to check on this possibility, and thought it would be well received by the Council. He relayed one prospective PB applicant had withdrawn, and another was not a Medina resident. He promised to e-mail PB members with updates regarding the rest of the selection process.

**Update on the New PW Shop Back Storage Lot** – DPW Jahn provided the PB with an update on the new PW back yard storage lot. He noted that in the agenda packet were pictures of the lot fence from the Medina Park side and a

copy of a recent survey of the property. DPW Jahn relayed there had been some controversy due to the visibility of the fence from the backside of Medina Park, but he had furnished the Council with an information packet which seemed to lessen the concerns. He noted no park space had been utilized for this back storage area, but rather PSE substation property was being utilized. Property which had been used all along but had never been fenced. The permit (lease) from PSE for this property to the City of Medina was \$1.00 for ten years. Screening vegetation was being planted, and in the next two to three years the shop would probably not even be visible from the Medina Park side. An electronic gate would also be installed for the shop front access gate for security.

**Margaret Maxwell, 8040 NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street**, emphasized the PSE property was wetlands, and was shocked about the encroachment on the swamp. She pointed out her property on the city map, noting her dependence upon that locale as a holding area, as her downstairs was approximately three feet below the ponds. The French drain in her neighbor's home did not pick up all the excess water, and she asked to have the 3-4 inches of water in her back yard removed. Ms. Maxwell emphasized any change in use should have been noticed for neighbors living within 300 feet. She commented the swamp was important for wildlife as well, and the State Department of Ecology was in agreement. Ms. Maxwell thought this change also presented a threat to PB member Hill's property, as well as others in the area. PB member Hill commented she had not noticed any water at her house. Ms. Maxwell was of the opinion the PWC had added more than 50 cubic yards of fill, and that was why Medina had a fill ordinance. PB member Nunn stated DPW Jahn could get some answers to Ms. Maxwell's questions, if they had not already been addressed. DPW Jahn stated he had already talked to Ms. Maxwell about this situation, and her facts were incorrect. He stated no additional fill had been placed anywhere. The only fill was that which had been placed when the shop was first built back in the late 60's. The primary problem with the backup of water near the Maxwell residence was due to the stream connecting the ponds into the culvert becoming filled with silt and backing up into the adjacent properties. He noted that a project had been scheduled for this summer to dredge the stream and improve the overall stream drainage.

**Ron Santi, 7842 NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street**, clarified that what Ms. Maxwell had been concerned about was whether or not Medina really adhered to an open process. He had some concerns as well. He asked if a deal had been made with PSE regarding only paying \$1.00 for the expansion of the PW area. Mr. Santi also voiced concern about collaboration with PSE regarding removal of trees in the city right-of-way. DPW Jahn responded there was no such deal, and that Medina was not expanding anything. Further, there was absolutely no connection between the PSE vegetation management project and the substation land use issue. The PSE substation area behind the PW shop had been used for storage and a tree nursery holding lot for years. I had just not been fenced before. The original land use permit from PSE had expired in 1995, and city personnel had failed to recognize this and have it renewed. Further, in the PSE vegetation management project, PSE had to pay the city for every tree that was removed, which brought in \$101,000 to city coffers. So far, over 150 replacement trees had been replanted, and many more were planned. DPW Jahn continued by noting that the wetlands in this area were actually part of the city's storm drainage system.

**Discussion of Medina Park Bench Locations** – DPW Jahn referred to the depiction of Medina Park in the packet with the current and proposed bench locations. The PWC was proposing to replace eight old benches with eight new ones, and were ready to install cement pads and the new benches. Ten benches were presently on hand, and five more were in this year's budget, for a total of 15 proposed new bench installations. He asked PB members to review what was proposed. He also commented one old bench would be moved to facing the little pond for a better view of the herons. PB member Gerlitz moved for acceptance of the plan as prepared which was seconded by PB member Nunn. The vote was unanimous.

PB member Brazen left the meeting at approximately 8:10 p.m.

**Discussion of Signage for all of Medina's Parks and Nature Preserve** – DPW Jahn referred to a picture in the packet and introduced for consideration an update of the signs for all of Medina's parks and nature preserve. He noted the sign at Fairweather was rotting and would soon have to be replaced. PB member Nunn requested that this subject be researched further to include a comparison cost for wood versus metal. There was also discussion regarding creating unique signs for each park and nature preserve. This topic was table for discussion at a future PB meeting.

**Improvement of Fairweather Park and Nature Preserve Parking Lot** – DPW Jahn stated he had received complaints regarding the condition of the parking lot at Fairweather Park and Nature Preserve as well as the one on 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE. However, he noted the these budget items had not survived the Council's 2004 budget process. PB member Gerlitz suggested the PB might want to encourage the Council to review of the parks budget for an additional \$17,000 to pave the Fairweather Park and Nature Preserve parking lot. DPW Jahn stated some expansion of the parking lot was included in the \$17,000. PB member Nunn thought the Council might want to also review paving the second (82<sup>nd</sup> Ave – Medina Park) parking lot at the same time. PB members agreed to take field trips to before the next meeting to review the two parking lots. DPW Jahn noted that some revisions would have to be made to the Fairweather Park and Nature Preserve gymnasium area to accommodate ADA requirements, although the

modifications needed were not urgent. PB member Nunn suggested tabling this agenda item until a future meeting, and the PB concurred by consensus.

**Upgrade of Medina Tennis Courts** – DPW Jahn announced he wanted to get Medina's tennis courts refurbished, including nets, webbing and court surfaces, in time for summer use this year, and that the City Council had funded these improvements in the 2004 budget.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Next Park Board Meeting** – The next Park Board meeting was scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on March 15, 2004.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned by common consent at 8:36 p.m.

Minutes taken by

Caroll P. Wedlund  
Recording Secretary